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## Media Release

April 29, 2010

### **Federal government recognizes Delaware's work to protect children from predators**

Delaware named second state to comply with Adam Walsh Act

**Wilmington** – Reflecting the significant steps Delaware has taken in recent years to strengthen the fight against criminals who prey on children, Attorney General Beau Biden announced today that Delaware has become just the second state in the country to achieve compliance with the federal Adam Walsh Act.

"I'm proud that we are being recognized as a national leader in protecting our communities from the worst in society – those who seek to harm our children," said Biden, who initiated a multi-year effort to strengthen Delaware's fight against child predators after taking office in 2007. "The tough new registration requirements and protections we have put in place shows how committed we all are to keeping our families safe. I want to recognize the State Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Delaware State Police, and members of the General Assembly for working with us to enact legislation that brought Delaware into compliance with the Adam Walsh Act as well as our ongoing partnership to track offenders and investigate and prevent sex crimes. We will never stop fighting to get these criminals off the streets and away from our children."

Last week, the US Department of Justice determined that Delaware has substantially implemented the provisions of the sex offender registration and notification provisions of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. The Act aligns sex offender registry standards across the states and asks states to place the burden of proof on convicted sex offenders. Under current federal rules, states that fail to substantially implement these provisions by July 26, 2010 stand to lose 10% of their annual federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding.

Attorney General Biden has made protecting children a priority, from creating the Delaware Department of Justice Child Predator Unit to establishing the Delaware Child Predator Task Force in partnership with the Delaware State police. Biden has fought for tougher sex offender registry laws and led the effort to enact greater penalties for child pornography offenses. As a result of these efforts, over \$1.3 million in federal grant funding has already been secured to expand Delaware's fight against child predators.

"This initiative to protect all children in Delaware has been a true partnership. I want to particularly thank the Delaware State Police for their ongoing efforts in maintaining one of the highest sex offender registry compliance rates in the nation. That means 98% of 4,168 sex offenders in Delaware are compliant with the Adam Walsh Act. It is through the vigilance and hard work of the Delaware State Police and its Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit that our State is recognized as a leader in the tracking and monitoring of sex offenders," said Safety and Homeland Security Secretary Lewis D. Schiliro.

“Keeping children safe is everyone’s top priority,” said Senators Carper and Kaufman (both D-Del.). “The announcement that Delaware is the second state to successfully implement the requirements of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is a reflection of the strength and determination of our Delaware Attorney General’s office to protect children. The tougher new laws and Child Predator Unit created by Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden and his team through this federally-funded program are making a difference in children’s lives, and we are pleased to commemorate this milestone.”

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